

I. AMENDMENTS

The amendments set forth below are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 19, 2000. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the following amendments in the above-captioned application and reconsider the allowability of the application as amended under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

A. To the Specification

Applicants request entering the below amendments to the specification.

On page 1, in the paragraph entitled, "Cross-Reference to Related Applications," which was added by the Preliminary Amendment filed with this application, on the second line, please delete:

"herein incorporated by reference in its entirety".

This text was mistakenly presented in the statement of the chain of priority of the application under 35 U.S.C. § 120. The statement is surplusage as the disclosure of Application Number 08/113,329 is the identical disclosure to that of the instant application. This amendment is made in direct response to Section VIII of the Office Action, which asserts this is a continuation-in-part application.

B. To the Claims

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendments to the claims set forth below. Claims 3-21, 23-25, 27-45, 47, 59, 68, 69, 71-74, 76-79, 81-84, 86, 88-92, 97-99, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 110-127, 129-133, 139, 145, 152-169, 188-205, 212, 215, 217, 219, 223, 224, 235, 241, 249, and 302 below are amended. For the PTO's convenience, claims that remain unchanged are included below in order to allow the Examiner to review all pending claims from this response in their numerical order.